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*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates

DATE: 5 June 1950

FROM : Chief, Publications Division

SUBJECT: Comment on International Communism Monthly

1. The International Communism Monthly is a compilation of reports on Communist activity and intentions throughout the world. Although it could be improved editorially and organizationally, it does a fair job in its own terms. The publication raises, however, such basic questions as: (1) is the publication a national intelligence estimate; (2) does the publication contain intelligence of common concern not being produced by other intelligence agencies; (3) does the material covered lend itself to periodic treatment; and (4) should ORE be devoting this many man-hours to a publication of this scope? D/Pub answers these questions negatively.

2. The publication is in no sense a national intelligence estimate. It is almost exclusively an organized report of Communist activity and intentions, with little analysis and practically no evaluation of Communist capabilities. Neither is any attempt made to draw a pattern of Communist activity in order to evaluate Soviet intentions. The paper is one-sided; it does not place Communist activity in perspective with non-Communist activity. Thus, it is no more than one contribution to a national intelligence estimate which would presumably evaluate all the other factors bearing on any situation discussed.

3. It is extremely doubtful that production of this publication fulfills a service of common concern. The material upon which it is based is available to all the other intelligence agencies. Divorced as it is from other factors, it is doubtful whether the other intelligence agencies find it useful and extremely unlikely that policy-makers can use it in its present form. The CIA Daily and Weekly Summaries treat that material contained in the publication which is timely and vital to US security interests, and in so doing present a rounded and complete evaluation.

4. It is also doubtful that this type of material lends itself to periodic treatment. Mere publication of a periodical leads to the inclusion of much material of little importance and imposes arbitrary deadlines. Trends or developments seldom begin or reach a crisis at any regular interval and a monthly periodical is often published when a trend has not developed sufficiently to permit full evaluation.

5. In view of the above considerations, publication of the International Communism Monthly does not appear to justify the man-hours devoted to it. It does not fulfill CIA's primary function--production of national intelligence estimates--nor does it perform a clear-cut service of common concern.

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- 2 -

6. The above comments do not necessarily imply that ORE should not have an international Communism section. Such a section could contribute to national intelligence reports and estimates when timely or to the CIA Weekly. It is recommended, however, that the section place more emphasis on the tactics, theory, and structure of international Communism and less on the fortunes of individual national Communist parties.

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